

***Lomatium laevigatum* (Nutt.) Coulter and Rose**

smooth desert-parsley
Apiaceae (Parsley Family)

Status: State Threatened

Rank: G3S2

General Description: Perennial with several flowering stems up to 16 inches tall that arise from a taproot that has a branched crown. The leaves are predominantly basal, the tallest almost as high as the inflorescence. They have a long petiole and a blade that is finely dissected into linear segments about 1/2 to 1 1/4 inches long and only 1/16 inch wide. The inflorescence is a compound umbel, the rays of which are of different lengths. Each of the 10-30 umbellets consists of numerous, densely packed, yellow flowers. The elliptic fruits are about 1/4 to 1/2 inch long and have wings nearly as wide as the body.

Identification Tips: *L. laevigatum* occurs in the same range as, and could be confused with, *L. triternatum*, *L. grayi*, *L. leptocarpum* and *L. brandegei*. *L. laevigatum* differs from *L. triternatum* in being glaucous rather than hirtellous-puberulent. *L. grayi* has very finely dissected leaves with several hundred to more than a thousand ultimate segments, whereas *L. laevigatum* has much less finely dissected leaves. *L. laevigatum* differs from *L. leptocarpum* and *L. brandegei* in having an inconspicuous involucrel.

Phenology: Flowering occurs predominantly during April and May and most plants are in fruit by June.

Range: The species grows on the basalt cliffs along the Columbia River in Klickitat County, Washington and adjacent Oregon in the Columbia Basin physiographic province.

Habitat: The species grows in crevices of the basaltic cliffs of the Columbia River and on adjacent rocky slopes of the sagebrush steppe. Associated species include spring whitlowgrass (*Draba verna*), fernleaf desertparsley (*Lomatium dissectum*), barren sixweeks (*Festuca bromoides*), northern buckwheat (*Eriogonum compositum*), yellowcress (*Rorippa* sp.), and cheat grass (*Bromus tectorum*).

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Known distribution of
Lomatium laevigatum
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Mark Sheehan



Reid Schuller

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Ecology: The species is adapted to dry, rocky habitats, where it faces a minimal amount of competition. The role of fire in maintaining habitat is unknown, although it is probably minimized by the rocky nature of the habitat.

State Status Comments: The species' limited distribution and small population size are the primary factors responsible for its state status.

Inventory Needs: To date there has been very limited inventory work on this species. A systematic inventory from Dallesport to perhaps as far east as Roosevelt should be conducted.

Threats and Management Concerns: The primary land use within the species' range is livestock grazing. The main negative affect of grazing is probably the increase in non-native species that results. There is also at least localized development potential. Construction activities should be avoided in the immediate vicinity of populations. There is also some potential threat from quarry activity.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 614 pp.

Jolley, R. 1988. *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge: A Comprehensive Field Guide*. Oregon Historical Society Press. Portland, Oregon. 331 pp.